

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 (currently amended) A compound ~~characterized in that it is chosen~~ selected from the compounds capable of binding to hormone receptors and in that it comprises a nitrogen monoxide-donor nitric ester group, with the exception of estradiol substituted in the 11- and/or 17-position with a nitric ester group.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hormone receptors are ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of steroid receptors, retinoid receptors and vitamin D derivative receptors.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in either one of claims 1 and 2,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a natural hormone.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in either one of claims 1 and 2,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a synthetic hormone.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~composed~~ consisting of a progestogen hormone, an estrogen, an anti-mineralocorticoid, an androgen ~~or~~ and an anti-androgen ~~or~~ and a combination of these hormones.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is ~~chosen~~ selected from the ~~following~~ group consisting of proterosterone, 17OH-progesterone, estradiol, ~~ethinyl~~ ethynyl estradiol, aldosterone, spironolactone, drospirenone, testosterone and cyproterone.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it comprises~~ of claim 1 comprising at least one or more NO₂ ~~groups~~ group bonded to the hormone directly via the oxygen atom of the enolic form or by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the NO₂ group(s) is (are) bonded directly to the hormone via the oxygen atom of the enolic form of the hormone.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the NO₂ group(s) is (are) bonded to the hormone by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical~~.

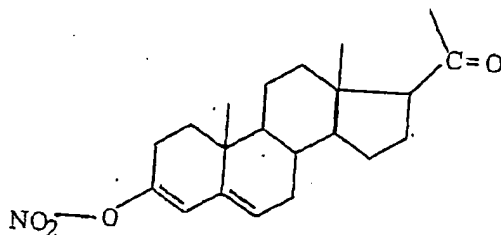
Claim 10 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9, characterized in that wherein the benzyloxy ~~radical~~ is bonded to the hormone by ~~means of a group that establishes a~~ bridge.

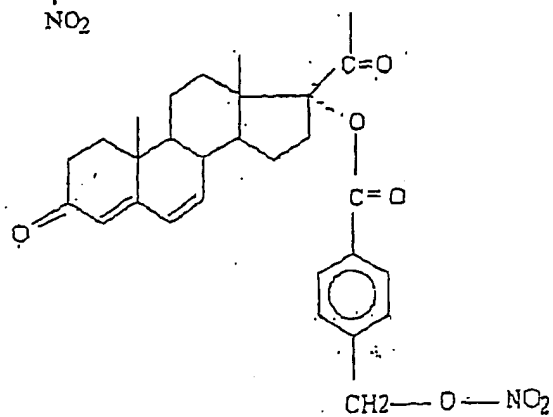
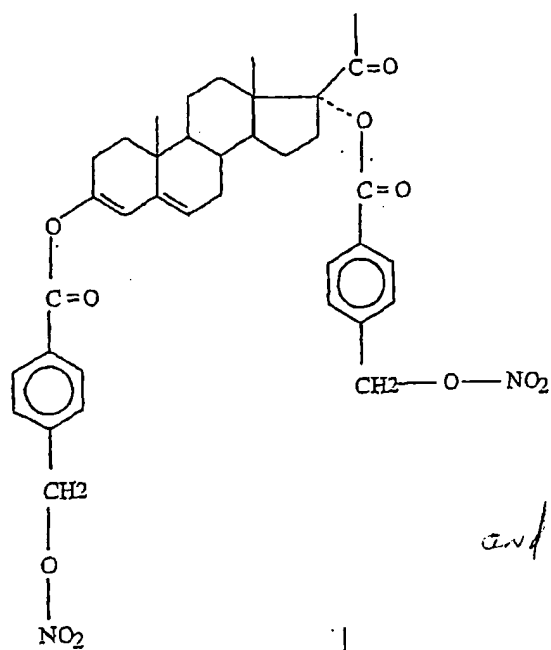
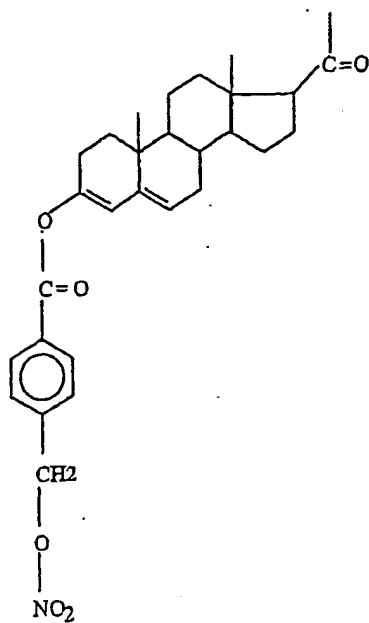
Claim 11 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the bridge is C=O or COO.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is
progesterone.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is
17OH-progesterone.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it corresponds to the formulae has a formula selected from the group consisting of



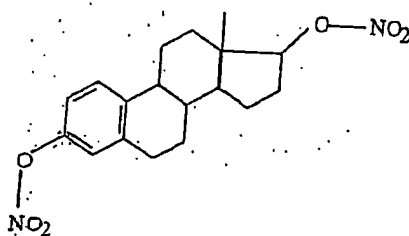


Claim 15 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is
estradiol.

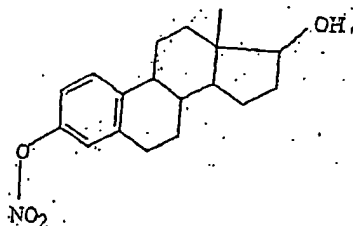
Claim 16 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it is substituted in the 17- and 3-position of the estradiol with an NO₂ group bonded to
the oxygen atom of the OH function of the estradiol.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it is substituted in the 3-position of the estradiol with an NO₂ group bonded to the
oxygen atom of the OH function of ~~the~~ estradiol.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 16 or 17,~~ ~~characterized in that~~
of claim 16 wherein it corresponds to the ~~formulae~~ formula



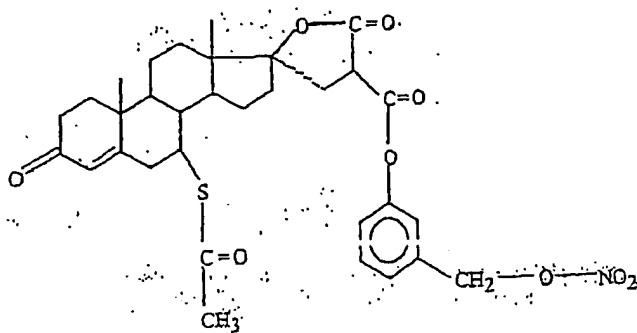
or



Claim 19 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein the hormone capable of binding to hormone receptors is
spironolactone.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it comprises an NO₂ group bonded by ~~means of a benzyloxy radical.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein it corresponds to the formula



Claims 22-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (new) A composition to prevent premature births comprising an amount of a
compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births and an inert pharmaceutical carrier.

Claim 35 (new) A method of preventing premature births in women comprising administering to women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births.

Claim 36 (new) A method of controlling uterine mobility in women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to control uterine mobility.

Claim 37 (new) A method of increasing cervical dilation during labor in women comprising administering to women in need thereof of an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to increase cervical dilation.

Claim 38 (new) A method of treating uterine contraction anomalies in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat uterine contraction anomalies.

Claim 39 (new) A method of treating dysmenorrhea in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat dysmenorrhea.

Claim 40 (new) A method of hormone replacement in menopausal comprising administering to menopausal women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient for hormone replacement.

Claim 41 (new) A method of treating arterial hypertension in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat arterial hypertension.

Claim 42 (new) A method of inducing an endometrial cycle in assisted reproduction in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to induce an endometrial cycle.